

From: Harry Yingst
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/3/01 11:18am
Subject: My opinion about the antitrust settlement with Microsoft

Having worked in the computer industry for over ten years I feel that the proposed solution from Microsoft is not in the best interest of the proposed beneficiaries (our schools).

I personally see it as furthering its monopolistic grip on the software market and in turn ultimately taking more from the schools in renewal fees etc. than they (Microsoft) are giving.

As I understand it the Microsoft's proposed solution has a five-year time limit at which point schools would have to pay Microsoft to renew their licenses and upgrade the software. This will cost these poorer districts a great expense at a time when many of these computers will be in dire need of replacement, further draining the limited resources of the schools.

I feel that the alternative proposal as set forth by Red Hat, Inc. is a far better proposal due to the fact that our school system will initially be provided with far more hardware (provided by Microsoft) and software (provided by Red Hat) then under the Microsoft proposal.

Additionally the Red Hat proposal has no time limit. Red Hat will provide software upgrades through the Red Hat Network online distribution channel.

This in turn will allow greater access to computer resources then would be present under the Microsoft proposal (about five times as many computer systems).

I salute Red Hat in there generosity to provide not only the software but to also provide online support for these computers, that's free support for the software more than one million computers that will be provided by Microsoft.

The true winners here will be our students!

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Harry L. Yingst III

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